The official voice of the Air Force Research Laboratory
news@afrl
Lab Laurels
December 2002

Ratazzi named as IF Engineer of the Year

by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — E. Paul Ratazzi was presented with the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Information Directorate's 2002 Ralph I. Cole Engineer of the Year Award during ceremonies Nov. 20.

Also honored at the directorate's "Heritage Day" ceremonies were 1st Lt. Louis M. Pochet, who was presented with the Fred I. Diamond Award in recognition of having the best technical paper published during the past year, and Dr. Alan R. Lindsey, who received the directorate's Basic Research Award.

The Cole Award, named in honor of the first chief scientist at Rome Air Development Center (renamed Rome Laboratory in 1990 and now part of the AFRL), is conferred annually on a laboratory engineer for engineering achievements in design, research, development, or management during the past three years.

Ratazzi is a senior electronics engineer in the Information Grid Division. In that position, he is a research and development team leader for wireless information assurance and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) executive agent for the Nanomechanical Array Signal Processor program.

He was cited specifically for conceiving and developing a secure application protocol including novel intrusion detection and policy compliance sensors, providing an unprecedented level of information assurance for military wireless local area network (LAN) users. The technology, not available in commercial devices, was recognized by AFRL and Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) commanders; technical, commercial and academic organizations; and high-level Department of Defense organizations such as the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the National Security Agency (NSA).

Pochet, a native of Suffern, has been a member of the Rome staff for the past three years. He is currently a computer engineer in the directorate's Information Grid Division.

He was selected for the Diamond Award, named in honor of the Laboratory's chief scientist from 1981 to 1992, for his contributions as a co-author of the paper "Field-Programmable Gate-Array-Based Graph Coloring Accelerator," published in the July-August 2002 issue of the Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets.

Lindsey has been a federal employee for 10 years. He is currently an electronics engineer in the Information Grid Division, where he is a senior research engineer for communications signal processing. He performs fundamental research in collaboration with directorate colleagues and university faculty on state-of-the-art interference mitigation, combined coding and modulation, and advanced algorithms.

Eleven scientists and engineers shared the Information Directorate Research and Technology Team Award for their efforts in establishing the Center for Integrated Transmission and Exploitation (CITE).

The team was comprised of Dr. Bruce W. Suter, Dr. David H. Hughes. Robert Husney, David Lagare, Maj. William Lundgren, Dr. Michael Medley, Stephen Reichart, Dr. Andrew Noga, Dr. Mark Robertson, John Patti and Dr. Stanley Wenndt.

The CITE is a joint endeavor of the Information Directorate and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research that focuses on basic and applied research in the science and engineering of integrated transmission and exploitation. Its vision is development of technology that will enable interconnected and geographically separated decision-makers the capability to access real-time intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance information and conduct command and control operations via a "Global Grid." @